

1888.

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

OF THE

COUNTY OF WELLAND.

—
SPECIAL SESSION.
—

J. HAMILTON BURGAR, ESQ., WARDEN.

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SPECIAL SESSION.

WELLAND, Oct. 23rd, 1888

Pursuant to the following requisition, the Council met in Special Session, to consider the Inspector's Report on Basement of Jail, and the sanitary condition thereof, viz :

To J. H. BURGAR, Esq.

Warden of the County of Welland.

We the undersigned members of the Jail Committee, most respectfully request that you may be pleased to direct that a Special Session of the County Council be called to be held at Council Chamber Welland, on Tuesday the 23rd. day of October, inst., for the

Requisition.

purpose of considering the jail Inspector's report on the Sanitary condition of the basement of the Court House, and any other matter relating thereto which may be presented.

We remain respectfully yours,

(Signed.) GEO. SHRIMPTON,
B. M. DISHER,
GEO. ZIMMERMAN,
H. N. WILLSON,
GEO. TURNER.

WELLAND, Oct. 20th, '88.

The Warden in the chair.

Members
present

Members present : Messrs. Barnhard, Biggar, Brown, Disher, Emmett, Hendershot, Hobson, Jones, Macklem, Morris, Ramsden, Shriner, Shrimpton, Stone, Treble, Turner, Williams, J. Wilson, H. N. Willson and Zimmerman.

The Warden after making some remarks in reference to the Special Session, read the foregoing requisition by the Jail Committee.

Also presented Jail Committee Report, also letters from jail Inspector and Dr. Bryce, from Provincial Board of Health.

Reading re.
ports.

Moved by Mr. Shriner, seconded by Mr. Disher, that the Report of the Jail Committee respecting the sanitary state of the Court House be adopted.

Committee of
the whole

Before the consideration of the forging motion, it was moved by Mr. Ramsden, seconded by Mr. Macklem, that this Council do now resolve itself into a Committee of the Whole to consider the Report of Jail Committee and Prison Inspector W. J. O. Reilly, and the communication from Dr. Bryce, Secretary of Provincial Board of Health, relative to the unsanitary condition of the basement of the Court House.—Carried.

Pursuant to motion the Council went into Committee of the Whole, Mr. Macklem in the chair.

The Committee rose and reported the following resolution :—

Moved by Mr. Hobson, seconded by Mr. Jones, that sections 24 and 26, cap. 250 Revised Statutes of Ontario 1887, reads as follows :

“ In case an Inspector at any time finds that the common jail in any County or City in this Province is out of repair, or is or has become unsafe or unfit for the confinement of Prisoners, or is not constructed or maintained in conformity with the provisions of the next preceeding section, or that the same does not afford sufficient space or room for the number of prisoners usually confined therein, he shall forthwith report the fact to the Lieutenant Governor, and shall at the same time furnish a copy of such report to the Council of the County or City, to which such common jail belongs, and Sec. 26 of same chapter reads as follows :—“ The provisions of this act as to the inspection, construction and repairing of jails, so far as may apply to County Houses.”

Inspector
Reilly's Letter

Therefore be it resolved that this Council is of the opinion that the Inspector has not complied with the instructions of the section referred to, and therefore this Council cannot act on the report of said Inspector, submitted relative to the condition of the apartments of the Jailor and Turnkey, and that a copy of this resolution be sent to the Inspector of Jails.

The motion proposed and carried on a division.

Moved by Mr. Biggar, seconded by Mr. Brown, that the Council do now adjourn.—Carried.

Council adjourned pursuant to motion at 5 o'clock, p. m.

COMMUNICATIONS.

JAILOR'S OFFICE,

'WELLAND, ONT., Oct. 17th 1888.

MR. WARDEN,

In my interview with the members of the jail Committee last April, I made full representation of the insanitary condition of the basement of the Court House, and in my report made certain suggestions as to its improvement which have only been partially carried out, and I ventured to suggest then that an outbreak of Diphtheria was imminent, that outbreak has now occurred as I expected, and one of the jailor's children is now lying in a very critical condition. I have again made an examination of the basement and cannot discover that any improvement has been made in the sanitary condition of the building.

Cannot act

I have now simply to say, that I shall invoke all the powers conferred upon me by the law to save the health and lives of those people exposed to the danger which have resulted so unfortunately in the case of one of them. I have instructed the acting Sheriff to remove at once the family of the Turnkey into safer quarters, and also such members of the jailor's family as can be safely moved, and I have to request that you will call at the earliest moment possible a meeting of the proper authorities, with a view of having permanent accommodation provided for them where they will no longer be in danger of their lives.

I shall also as soon as possible invoke the authority of the Provincial Board of Health to take whatever action they may deem wise in the premises.

I have the honor to be Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed,) Dr. T. O. REILLY,

Inspector.

THE WARDEN,

County of Welland.

PARLIAMENT BUILDINGS.

TORONTO, Oct. 22nd, 1888.

RE-SANITARY CONDITION.

SIR :—

Dr. Bryce has forwarded me a letter, probably for my perusal, and I now enclose it to you.

You will see that there is little if any difference in the opinions held by us on the question at issue respecting your Court House.

His first suggestion is to cease utilizing the basement as a dwelling house. His second is to have it improved for temporary occupation in case emergency requires that a turnkey should have to sleep there.

His third suggestion is the making of the basement dry by an open tile drain around the whole building to catch the soakage water.

His fourth is to take out all portions of the floor and joists at all decayed or saturated with soakage from house washing.

His fifth is the removal of all polluted and saturated soil under the basement, and replacing same there necessary by clean sand and gravel.

His sixth is that as it is difficult to keep any basement dry unless the floor ventilation be good, this must be especially attended to, and in order to accomplish that he makes the suggestion which I made to the committee last spring—that the preferable plan would be to put in a cement floor leaving out all wood.

I fail to understand the latter part of this clause where he seems to suggest that it might be possible to lay the concrete over the floor using it as the bottom.

The seventh is to have no drains of any kind under the basement, or if there are any they must be perfectly tight.

*Impr
ice.*
Dr. Bryce's
Letter

These are the points which I insisted upon in my remarks to the Committee, and which I trust the Council will see its way to carrying out.

I have the honor to be, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
(Signed.) W. T. O. REILLY,
Inspector.

HAMILTON BURGAR, Esq.
Warden, Co. of Welland,
Welland.

Toronto, Oct. 22nd. 1888.

Dr. Fryce
To THE WARDEN, MR. BURGAR,
Co. Welland

DEAR SIR :—It has become my duty after an inspection of the County Court House of Welland to consider their condition from the standpoint of the public health, and in doing so have to suggest that the County Council take the following action in regard to the matter.

1—Cease utilizing the basement as a permanent dwelling house ; and until such permanent provisions can be made as the case demands rent houses for the jailor and turnkey.

2—Have the basement improved for temporary occupation in case the emergency requires that a turnkey should have to sleep there.

3—This means the making of the basement dry, (a) by an open tile drain around the whole building so as to catch the soakage water and prevent its entering the basement.

(b)—Take out all portions of the floor and joists at all decayed and saturated with soakage from house washing.

(c)—By removing all polluted and saturated soil under the basement, and replacing when necessary by clean sand or gravel.

(4)—Inasmuch as it is difficult to keep any basement perfectly

dry unless the floor ventilation be good, this must be especially attended to ; and further as wood is always susceptible to decay, it will probably be as cheap and more permanent to make a cement floor, whether the present floor and joists are in such a state as would make it practicable to have the cement laid over the floor, using it as the bottom, can only be determined by a thorough inspection of the joists and flooring.

5—Have no open drains, and if favorable no drains of any kind under the basement, if there, they must be perfectly tight.

You might find it necessary to lay in the old drain now under the building, a six inch tile to carry off the roof-water. Such a tile drain laid in Portland Cement, would be cheap and with joints well made, would be perfect and will do away with the objection of dampness arising from the openings in the flags which lie over the old drain at present.

6—Have the construction of this work and of the new buildings carried out by some architect who is well up in sanitary details.

Trusting that this may prove of use to your Council in arriving at some satisfactory scheme.

I have the honor to be

Your obedient servant,

(Signed.) PETER H. BRYCE,

Secretary.

P. S.—Please examine clause 9, R. 80, 1887, Cap. 200.

Dr. Bryce's
Letter